asked to bring down the price voluntarily failing which, subject to prescribed conditions, action is initiated under paragraph 10(b) of the DPCO, 1995 for fixing the price of the formulation in public interest.

Acquisition of pharma units by multinational companies

†3279. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the disinvestment and accession by multinational companies have increased in the areas of drug research and drug manufacturing in Indian pharma industry;

(b) if so, the reasons for Indian companies selling their shares to multinational companies;

(c) whether foreign patent laws and politics are hurdles in the progress of Indian pharma industry and instrumental in increase in accession of multinational companies in the country; and

(d) the details of planning of Government to check the monopoly of foreign pharma companies in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (d) At present 100% FDI is allowed in the Pharmaceutical sector. Acquisitions, strategic takeovers, mergers etc. are taking place both ways - by Indian companies overseas and by foreign companies in India to broaden their scope of functioning across the globe. Sector specific policy interventions may be required through a study to conform to the broad policy objectives of the Govt. of India on FDI flows.

Land of closed units

3280. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of quantity of land along with character of usage of Land possessed by closed units of HFCL, FCIL, and PPCL for factory and township purposes separately and the valuation of the same based on present market rate, unit-wise;

(b) the reasons for the land in possession of those closed units being allowed to remain idle since last seven or eight years and not being returned to respective State Governments which had given the land on lease; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to rehabilitate the units and requisite permission has been obtained from respective State Government with details thereof, unit- wise?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.